



For Immediate Release
September 12, 2007

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ARTS COMMISSION HIRES NEW PERFORMING ARTS DIRECTOR

Phoenix, Ariz. – Robert C. Booker, Executive Director of the Arizona Commission on the Arts (ACA), announced today that Jennifer Tsukayama has accepted the position of Performing Arts Director at the Commission. She comes to ACA after serving as a professor in the Department of Dance at Arizona State University. Booker said that Tsukayama “brings to us a wealth of experience in the performing arts as a dancer, administrator, teacher, and choreographer. She will continue to grow the agency’s work across the state by serving as a resource for all of the artists and arts organizations engaged in the performing arts. Her energy, knowledge of the field, and personal engagement in the arts will serve our state well.”

Tsukayama comes from 15 years of artistic, administrative and teaching experience in modern dance, arts education and community outreach. Her past experience includes working as the founding and artistic director of *tsukayama dance collaborative (tdc)*, a modern dance repertoire company devoted to integrating dance and technology to site specific and community works. She also has collaborated with various international and national artists and scientists to create interactive and telematic works. Tsukayama has been commissioned by dance companies across the United States and abroad, toured and performed with numerous artists, and taught in universities and festivals both nationally and internationally. Tsukayama is also the Co-Founder and Artistic Director of the New York City based company, Murkofsky/Tsukayama Dance Theatre (1996-2000). MTDT performed and was commissioned by artists and festivals abroad and around New York City.

Tsukayama has been invited to present papers on her community work and integrated multidisciplinary curriculum at such organizations as *Counsil Internacional de la Dance* of the United Nation’s Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Congress on Research in Dance (CORD) and National Education Dance Organization (NDEO). She was the school administrator for the *Alvin Ailey American Dance Center* in New York City and was Assistant Professor at Arizona State University’s Department of Dance where she taught contemporary modern, ballet, choreography, and performance and technology. She also served as the Co-artistic Director of Dance Arizona Repertory Theatre/DART from 1998 to its end in 2007. Recently nominated for a 2007 Governor’s

Arts Award, DART was the student repertory and outreach dance company that integrated the needs and goals of its three separate populations: the graduate and undergraduate ASU DART dancers, the community partners, and the working professionals in the field. During Tsukayama's tenure as Co-artistic Director, DART's mission remained committed to outreach, long-term community partnerships and performance, while also inviting international, national and local guest artists to create work with students and community partners.

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As the state arts agency, the Commission envisions an Arizona where all people can broaden, deepen and diversify their engagement with the arts, as creators, audiences and supporters, in ways that are satisfying and integral to their lives.

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